

BRAVE NEW RADIO CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Three generations of alumni returned to campus last December to celebrate the 30th anniversary of WPSC 88.7 FM Brave New Radio as an FM-licensed radio station.

The festivities included an alumni “takeover” during which more than 50 alumni DJs returned to the station’s airwaves for two-hour shifts throughout the week of December 3. Each day revived the sound of an era for 24 hours. “It was very exciting and also an honor to be able to come back and recreate the Hit Radio format that we had when we were students here in the ‘90s, and we have a great deal of gratitude towards the University for making this happen,” says Mike Bonte ’00.

This was the first time that the station recreated the sound for each format throughout the years, including WPSC 59 AM Radio, WPSC-FM AP Radio, Laser Hits PSC, 88.7 Hit Radio, North Jersey’s Independent Rock, and the current Brave New Radio. “It was great for our current students to meet and work with those former students who paved the way for where WPSC is today,” says Sebastian Escobar ’15, WPSC’s station manager.

The events culminated with an alumni luncheon on campus during which the station also celebrated its recent selection as the winner of the 2018 Marconi Radio Award for non-commercial station of the year.

A radio station scrapbook with memorabilia from the late 1970s



MILITARY MOTHERS MAY BE PRO-WAR ON THE SURFACE—BUT LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING, SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR SAYS



For more than a decade, sociology professor Wendy Christensen has researched the impact mothers of U.S. service members have on war—and the way the war impacts them. She follows military mothers through the stages of recruitment, deployment, and post-deployment in her recent book, *Mothers of the Military: Support and Politics During Wartime*.

Christensen gives an inside view of military recruitment, finding it is heavily geared toward convincing fearful mothers to support enlistment of their children. She also takes a look at the racial divide in recruitment, finding that single black and Latina mothers of sons are more actively sought by recruiters, where messages are repositioned to emphasize how the military will serve as the father figure a son needs.

Once their children are deployed, Christensen found that military moms quickly and painfully become separated not only from their children, but from their entire social circles. As a result, many military mothers turn to Internet-based groups, such as Semper Fi—explicitly recommended by military recruiters, in an effort to provide moms with some type of support.

Many mothers subsequently report feeling like they need to be the face of the war, organizing care package drives, having school children write holiday cards for troops, and sending letters to the editors of local newspapers. “A militaristic kind of motherhood surfaces,” Christensen explains, where mothers feel like they must be pro-war publicly in order to support the troops. “But while many of these mothers in their in-person and online social groups seem very patriotically pro-war on the surface, many confide that they grapple with the idea of war and feel our country was wrong to get into it.”

Overall, Christensen says she was surprised to learn, through writing this book, how complex a relationship mothers have with political activism and the military during wartime. She hopes her work will shed light on such for the civilian population, while helping military mothers feel like they are not alone.

